

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 2 to 4, 6 to 8 and 10 to 12 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A printing control ~~[[The]]~~ apparatus for performing heat transfer printing on a printing medium by using a heat transfer sheet, comprising:
determining means for determining whether to perform printing by dividing a printing region in the widthwise direction of a printing medium having a fixed width; and
printing control means for, when printing is to be performed by dividing the printing region in the widthwise direction of the printing medium in accordance with the determination by said determining means, controlling printing for consecutive pages by making printing information of the consecutive pages to correspond to the printing regions divided in the widthwise direction of the printing medium ~~according to claim 1,~~

wherein said printing control means counts the number of pages to be printed in accordance with the printing information and, if the counted number of pages is an odd number, notifies a user that one unit page becomes blank.

3. (Currently amended) A ~~[[The]]~~ printing control apparatus for performing heat transfer printing on a printing medium by using a heat transfer sheet, comprising:

determining means for determining whether to perform printing by dividing a printing region in the widthwise direction of a printing medium having a fixed width;

printing control means for, when printing is to be performed by dividing the printing region in the widthwise direction of the printing medium in accordance with the determination by said determining means, controlling printing for consecutive pages by making printing information of the consecutive pages to correspond to the printing regions divided in the widthwise direction of the printing medium; and according to claim 1,
further comprising:

identifying means for identifying the type of printing sheet,

wherein said printing control means controls printing in accordance with the identification by said identifying means.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 2 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the printing region in the widthwise direction of the printing medium is divided into not less than two printing regions.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A ~~[[The]]~~ printing control method of performing heat transfer printing on a printing medium by using a heat transfer sheet, comprising:

the determination step of determining whether to perform printing by dividing a printing region in the widthwise direction of a printing medium having a fixed width; and

the printing control step of, when printing is to be performed by dividing the printing region in the widthwise direction of the printing medium in accordance with the determination in the determination step, controlling printing for consecutive pages by making printing information of the consecutive pages to correspond to the printing regions divided in the widthwise direction of the printing medium according to claim 5,

wherein the printing control step comprises counting the number of pages to be printed in accordance with the printing information and, if the counted number of pages is an odd number, notifying a user that one unit page becomes blank.

7. (Currently amended) amended) A [[The]] printing control method of performing heat transfer printing on a printing medium by using a heat transfer sheet, comprising:

the determination step of determining whether to perform printing by dividing a printing region in the widthwise direction of a printing medium having a fixed width;

the printing control step of, when printing is to be performed by dividing the printing region in the widthwise direction of the printing medium in accordance with the determination in the determination step, controlling printing for consecutive pages by making printing information of the consecutive pages to correspond to the printing regions

divided in the widthwise direction of the printing medium; and according to claim 5;
further comprising

the identification step of identifying the type of printing sheet,
wherein in the printing control step, printing is controlled in accordance
with the identification in the identification step.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6 [[5]], wherein the
printing region in the widthwise direction of the printing medium is divided into not less
than two printing regions.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A heat transfer printing medium used in a heat
transfer type printing control apparatus having a convey roller, comprising:

perforations in a position at which the dimension in a [[the]] widthwise
direction different from a convey direction of said printing medium ~~having a fixed width~~ is
equally divided, ~~wherein; and~~

a blank portion clamped by the convey roller, when the said printing
medium is conveyed by the convey roller,

wherein printing regions of said printing medium divided by said
perforations are used as a unit page size, and

wherein said perforations are used to separate a printing region of the unit
page size, and

wherein said blank portion is separated from said printing regions by said perforations.

11. (Currently amended) The medium according to claim 10, wherein the position of the perforation ~~at which the dimension in the widthwise direction of said printing medium having a fixed width~~ is the center in the widthwise direction.

12. (Currently amended) The medium according to claim 10, wherein said ~~heat transfer~~ printing medium comprises four perforation lines in symmetrical positions with respect to the center in the widthwise direction of said printing medium.

13. (Canceled)